



St Joseph's Catholic School, Fairfield

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Principals Piece

E ngā mātua, tēnā koutou katoa, talofa

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Thank you to all our community (students, staff and parents) for your quick response and support when we moved back into Covid Alert Level 2 last week. Implementing our contact tracing protocols and systems to reduce congestion, such as the optional staggered end of day, was able to be done swiftly and with confidence as it is now familiar territory. Our thoughts and prayers are with our families, colleagues and friends in the Auckland Level 3 lockdown.

The current Alert Level 2 will continue until at least next Wednesday, 26 August. Unfortunately, this means that several school events are affected. We will keep you updated as information from event organisers comes in. At the moment the following decisions have been made:

- **Postponed: The discos, planned for 26&27 August are postponed.** We have told the students about this today; we know that this will be a great disappointment to many. Please reassure your children that as soon as we are back in Alert Level 1, the Student Council will reschedule the dates and we will be ready to rock n roll!
- **Cancelled: The Year 4-6 Fairfield Cluster Cross Country** planned for Tuesday 25 August has been cancelled.
- **Postponed: The Year 7&8 interschool sports event "Saints in Action" planned for 3&4 September has been postponed** until Term 4 - dates to be advised. This event involved many other Catholic Schools.
- **Year 2-8 Gymsports** is planned for Thursday 27 August. **If Level 2 is extended beyond Wednesday 26th August, the event will be postponed** until Thursday 24th September (the last week of Term 3).
- We will not be attending Mass as a school until Alert Level 1 resumes.
- Some other visits which take place on a regular basis such as our Young Vinnies visiting a local kindergarten and rest home do not happen under Alert Level 2.
- Some fundraising ventures have been put on hold until we move out of Alert Level 2, including the PTFA Spellathon and pizza lunches.

Obviously, these decisions are disappointing for our students; we endeavour to reschedule what we can, and keep as many activities running in-school as possible whilst meeting the Alert Level 2 requirements.

Staff Update: Today we farewell Erin Clayton, we wish her all the best in her new role as Director of Religious Services (DRS) at her new school in Papamoa. We look forward to welcoming back Mrs Rhona Helm to take over Erin's class from Monday. It is our tradition to do farewells with the Irish Blessing, but as we can't gather as a school today, please pray for Erin:



God Bless,

Tracy Svendsen
Acting Principal

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 15:21-28*

Jesus heals the daughter of the Canaanite woman because of her great faith.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel. Last week we read about Jesus walking on the water and the disciples' confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew's entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean.

Knowing about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today's Gospel. In fact the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus' exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, "dog." But the woman cleverly turns Jesus' insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus' unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today's Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world.

Behind Matthew's text we can hear this early Christian community's struggle to understand how God's selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles' acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today's second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.

Rangimarie and Aroha - Peace and Love

Love: *We share the love of Christ through loving others and ourselves.*

Love one another as I have loved you.



Show love by including others.

Come and play
with us!

What's your
opinion?

Do you want to
join our group?



Weeks 4&5 Term 3: Monday 10 August

PTFA News

Next PTFA Meeting: Date to be advised according to Alert level.

Spellathon and Pizza Lunches

Sadly we have had to postpone our Spellathon and the fortnightly pizza lunches due to Covid Alert 2. We will update you when we get further information about the Alert levels.

Cross Country

Congratulations to all the Year 0-8 students that competed in the school cross country at Porritt Stadium. Even though the weather was not on our side this year, it was wonderful to see so many parents supporting us at this event, and the grit and resilience of our students really shone through. Well done everyone! The results were:

Year 0 Boys: 1st - Siaola Vaea, 2nd - Mason Higgins, 3rd - Alex Caufield

Year 0 Girls: 1st Isla Breen, 2nd - Frankie Fynmore, 3rd - Stella Keaney

Year 1 Boys: 1st James McDiarmid, 2nd: Felipe Andregtoni, 3rd - Joshua McPeak

Year 1 Girls: 1st - Bella Smith, 2nd - Lucy Goodhall, 3rd - Imogen Stapleton

Year 2 Boys: 1st - Luke Tebbutt, 2nd - Jason Cuttance, 3rd - Van Polaczuk

Year 2 Girls: 1st - Esther O'Halloran, 2nd - Tayla Baucke, 3rd - Elisavet George

Year 3 Boys: 1st - Kayden Thompson, 2nd - Samuel McDiarmid, 3rd - Christian Jermy

Year 3 Girls: 1st - Emily Weterere, 2nd - Sophia Lee, 3rd - Sophie Hillock

Year 4 Boys: 1st -Zach McLauchlan-Hillary, 2nd - Rafael Drent, 3rd - Daniel Harvey

Year 4 Girls: 1st -Olivia Moore, 2nd - Maggie Mutter, 3rd - Clare Williams

Year 5 Boys: 1st - Jack Holah, 2nd - Archie Mason, 3rd - Gabriel O'Halloran

Year 5 Girls: 1st -Shelby McLeod-Dunn, 2nd - Maddie Kovacs, 3rd - Ivy Papesch

Year 6 Boys: 1st - Liam Coombes, 2nd -Finn McCabe, 3rd - Paxton Polaczuk

Year 6 Girls: 1st -Tessa Scott, 2nd - Bella McLauchlan-Hillary, 3rd - Ashleigh van Eyk

Year 7 Boys: 1st - Alfie Mason, 2nd - Samuel Mateer 3rd - Luke Richardson

Year 7 Girls: 1st - Ashley Lander, 2nd -Eva Conlon, 3rd - Grace Quigley

Year 8 Boys: 1st - Noah Gibson, 2nd - William Peoples, 3rd - Ryan Cole

Year 8 Girls: 1st - Lily Ashton, 2nd - Yuri Sakamoto-Aish 3rd - Tamsin Autridge

Sharing Success

Our Year 6, 7 and 8 Maths Teams competed on the 29th of July at Marian School in the "CathMaths" competition with the other local Catholic Schools. Congratulations to the Year 8 team who placed 2nd.

Year 8 team: Yunho, Elle, Amanda

Year 7 team: Chunwa, Isla, Wayde

Year 6 team: Bella, Ryan, Finn



Tutor 2 You

We are excited to start tutoring and getting our business underway! We are a group of six role model Waikato Dio year 13 students who have developed an after school tutoring business for Level 3 Business Studies.

We offer tutoring for students in Years 5-8.

TIME SLOTS:

Monday:
3.30-4.00pm
4.05-4.35pm

Wednesday
3.30-4.00pm
4.05-4.35pm

VALUE PROPOSITION

TUTOR2YOU

TUTOR2YOU OFFER A UNIQUE WAY OF TUTORING AND SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN YEARS 1 - 8

CHOOSE US

WE COME TO YOU  AFFORDABLE	CONVENIENT FOR PARENTS  RECOVER COVID-19 LEARNING GAP	Y13 TUTOR ROLE MODELS  WE LINK TO YOUR SCHOOL
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Book through our [Facebook](#) page or feel free to email us: tutor2youhamilton@gmail.com.

In the appointment notes when you book, please write what topic your child needs help with (eg: essay structure, fractions, spelling etc). Please also write if they are bringing their homework, or if the tutor needs to organise a worksheet.

EAT TO ENERGIZE

DURING SPORT

At half time remember to rehydrate with water. Have small sips – if you need to eat try having a small piece of fruit.

Expect Energy

www.sportwaikato.org.nz
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